02
Track of a Black Steam
ILLEGENES
イルゲネス
黒煌の軌跡
桑原水菜×石堰カチル
MIZUNA KUWABARA × KACHIRU ISHIZUE

Hagenes
Track of a black gleam
02

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CHAPTER 7

WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN ...
BLACK MARKET KILLED MY PARENTS.
.....
KILLED BY BLACK MARKET?
WHY...?
MY PARENTS WERE ANTI-CLONE-TRADE ACTIVISTS.

MY PARENTS WAS AGAINST THAT IDEA.
MASS PRODUCTION OF PEOPLE IN THE PAST.
CROSS-BREED HUMAN AND ANIMAL.
CREATE A CHILD WHO PARENTS WISH FOR.
THOSE MEN BURST IN OUR HOUSE LATE AT NIGHT.
SHOT MY FATHER'S HEAD.
AND MY MOTHER AFTER THAT...
...!
AFTER THEY FELL ON THE FLOOR, THEIR BLOOD DIDN'T STOP FLOODING ...
HE WAS THERE WHEN THAT HAPPENED ...

I STILL DREAM OF THAT TRAGEDY HAPPENED IN FRONT OF ME.
MEDICINE CAN RESTRAIN A LITTLE BUT...
THE DAY I GET TOO NERVOUS OR EXCITED ...
I SEE THAT DREAM ...
!
FON.

...JUST LITTLE BY LITTLE.
I'M LISTENING YOU...

THE OFFICERS ARE STILL THERE...
AT THAT HOUSE OF THE FAMILY MOVED IN A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
THEIR SON IS JUST THIRTEEN YEARS OLD.
THIRTEEN? POOR BOY HAS LOST HIS PARENTS ...
I HEARD HE HAS NO RELATIVES TO RELY ON.
OF COURSE NOT... NOBODY WANTS TO BE KILLED LIKE HIS PARENTS.
.....
DID YOU KNOW HIS PARENTS WERE ANTI-CLONE-TRADE ACTIVISTS?
YES. AND THEY HAD MANY SUPPORTERS.
THAT'S WHY BLACK MARKET DID...

BLACK MARKET...?
HEY, YOU SHOULDN'T SAY SUCH A THING ...
WELL BUT THAT'S THE TRUTH RIGHT?
THAT'S...
WHAT THEY ARE...!

...FON?
...!
WHO IS THIS?
JET-BLACK HAIR AND A MOLE UNDER THE EYE... YOU MUST BE FON.
FON.
.....
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT YOU FROM YOUR PARENTS.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AFRAID OF ME.
I CAME TO PICK YOU UP.

FAMILY ...
I WANT YOU TO BE MY FAMILY.
YES, MY FAMILY.
I WAS A GOOD FRIEND OF YOUR PARENTS.
MY DAD AND MOM ...?
THEIR MOVEMENT WAS VERY RISKY SO I HAD A PROMISE ...
TO TAKE YOU IN AS A SON IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO THEM.
.....
WILL YOU COME WITH ME?
A TENDER SMILE...

SOMEWHAT FEELS LIKE I KNOW HIM FROM OLD MEMORIES...
.....
...HUH?
I WILL COME WITH YOU...
MY NAME IS MICHAEL LITTENBER.
NICE TO MEET YOU, MY SON.
THAT'S HOW I WAS ADOPTED BY DR. LITTENBER.

HE LOVED ME LIKE A REAL SON.
I HAVE CONSIDERED TO BE A RESEARCHER LIKE HIM BUT...
THE HATRED TOWARD THE BLACK MARKET GROWS EVERY TIME I DREAMED OF THAT NIGHT...
MY ADOPTIVE FATHER WAS THE FIRST PERSON WHO MADE A LABORATORY OF GENETIC ENGINEERING ON THIS ISLAND...
AND I CAN'T DENY THE FACT THAT THIS WAS AN OPPORTUNITY THE ISLAND BECAME THE GENETIC SODOM.
BUT I BELIEVE HE DID NOT WISH FOR THE BLACK MARKET THAT IS TRADING ARTIFICIAL HUMANS.
EVERYBODY...
PEOPLE MAKE FUN OF HIM, "THE FATHER OF GENETIC SODOM."
APPROACHES ME TO MAKE FUN OF ME FOR BEING A SON OF DOCTOR...

WHY DOESN'T EVERYBODY REALIZE?
THEY THINK NOTHING OF PEOPLE'S LIVES!
DOCTOR IS DIFFERENT FROM THE BASTARDS OF THE BLACK MARKET.
THE BLACK MARKET TREATS LIVES LIKE PRODUCTS AND THROWS AWAY WHEN THEY GET BORED...
AND THEY EASILY KILL PEOPLE IN THEIR WAY...!!!
!!
FON...

I DON'T FORGIVE THE BLACK MARKET!
THOSE BASTARDS ...
WHO TOOK MY DAD AND MOM'S LIVES!
...!
I SEE ...

PLEASE DON'T...
HOLD EVERYTHING IN YOURSELF.
WATCHING PARENTS GETTING MURDERED MUST BE UNBEARABLE.
IT IS A HARD PAST TO TO PUT INTO WORDS ...
THAT'S WHY HE HATED THE BLACK MARKET SO MUCH.
!!!

.....
HE SEEMS TO BE CALMER...
サァァァ
FON.
SCHOOL IS OFF TODAY SO DO YOU WANNA GO FOR A WALK?
OUTSIDE?
YOU ALWAYS STUDY OR GO TO GYM ON THE DAY OFF.
YOU NEED TO TAKE A REST.
ぽぽぽ

...!
BUT WE DON'T HAVE A PERMISSION TO GO OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL.
WALKING ON THE CAMPUS CAN STILL BE A GOOD RELAXATION. AND IT'S A NICE WEATHER.

WHY IS IT INSIDE OF THE SCHOOL YARD OF A MILITARY ACADEMY?
...!? IT'S A CAT?
PLATINES BRING IN A LOT OF THINGS. HE MUST BE ONE OF THEM.
...THERE, HE'S GOT A COLLAR.
OH, YEAH. IS HE A LOST CAT?
THE OWNER IS PROBABLY SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE.
なぁ…

.....
I THOUGHT OF IT WHEN I SAW YOU WITH A HORSE BUT YOU REALLY LIKE ANIMALS.
HUH ...
YEAH.
I'VE NEVER HAD A PET THOUGH.
I LIKE THEM.
I SEE.
YOU COMPROMISE WITH ANIMALS, WELL BUT...

WELL ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, JAKE?
?
SOMETIMES I FEEL YOU ARE STANDING IN A MIDDLE OF NOWHERE BY YOURSELF.
I THINK YOU CAN RELY ON SOMEONE MORE...
YOU CAN START FROM ME.

RELY ON SOMEONE...?

PROBABLY WENT BACK TO HIS OWNER.
!
!
TWITCH
WE SHOULD WALK MORE TOO. YOU HAVEN'T WALKED ENOUGH, HAVE YOU?
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF RELYING ON SOMEBODY BEFORE.
BECAUSE I...
THROB
I...

THE HATRED TOWARD
THE BLACK MARKET
POUND
POUND
DO NOT FORGET.

WHAT WAS THAT VOICE ...?
WHAT'S UP, FON?
...?
NO...!
.....
NOTHING.

CHAPTER
8

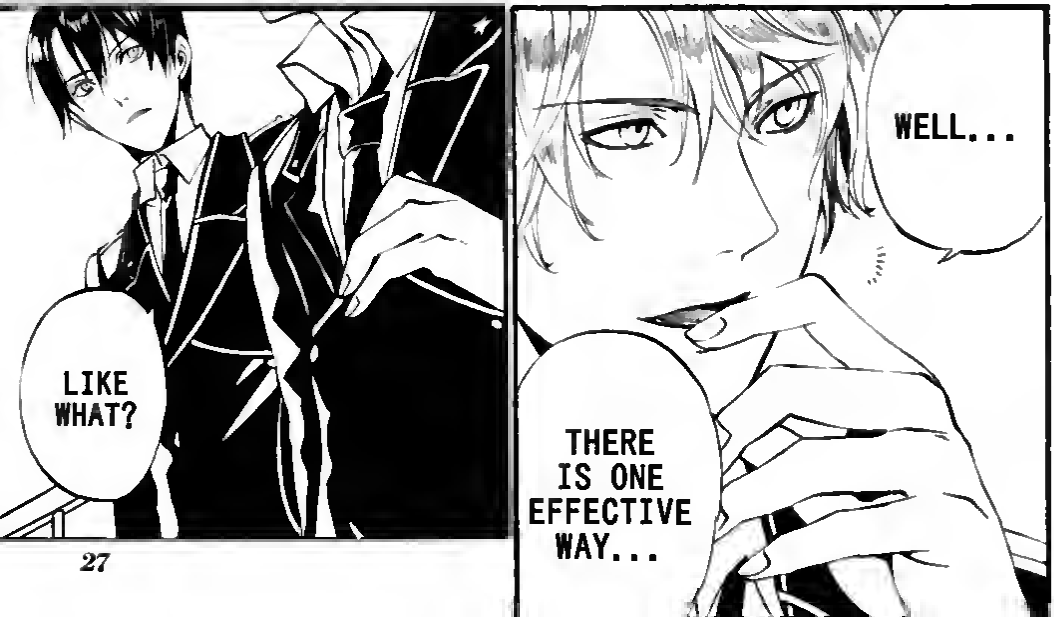
WAS YOUR PAPER TREATED AS NOT-SUBMITTED AGAIN?
.....
YOU CAN'T STAND IT ANY MORE, CAN YOU?

NO...
THREATENING IS FINE BUT MESSING WITH GUN ISN'T JUST A JOKE.
IT'LL BE TERRIBLE IF HE IS THINKS HE CAN MURDER SOMEBODY AND SMOTHER IT UP WITH A POWER.

ANDREW IS INDIRECTLY THREATENING THAT HE CAN KICK YOU OUT ANYTIME WITH HIS FATHER'S AUTHORITY.
THIS IS TOO MALICIOUS.

THAT'S TRUE... IF THAT WASN'T FON, JAKE WAS DEAD.
NO, CRUDUP. WE DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THEM.
WELL THEN, AN EYE FOR AN EYE, A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH. LET'S DO THE SAME THING TO THEIR GUN!
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING MENTALLY AFFECT THEM?

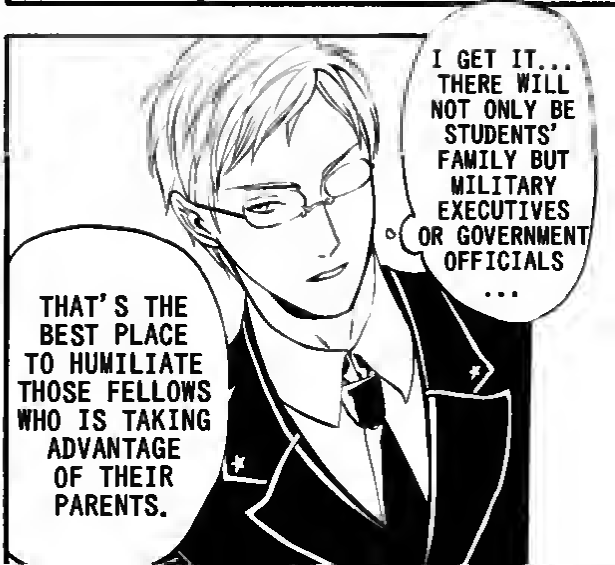
.....


LIKE WHAT?
WELL...
THERE IS ONE EFFECTIVE WAY...

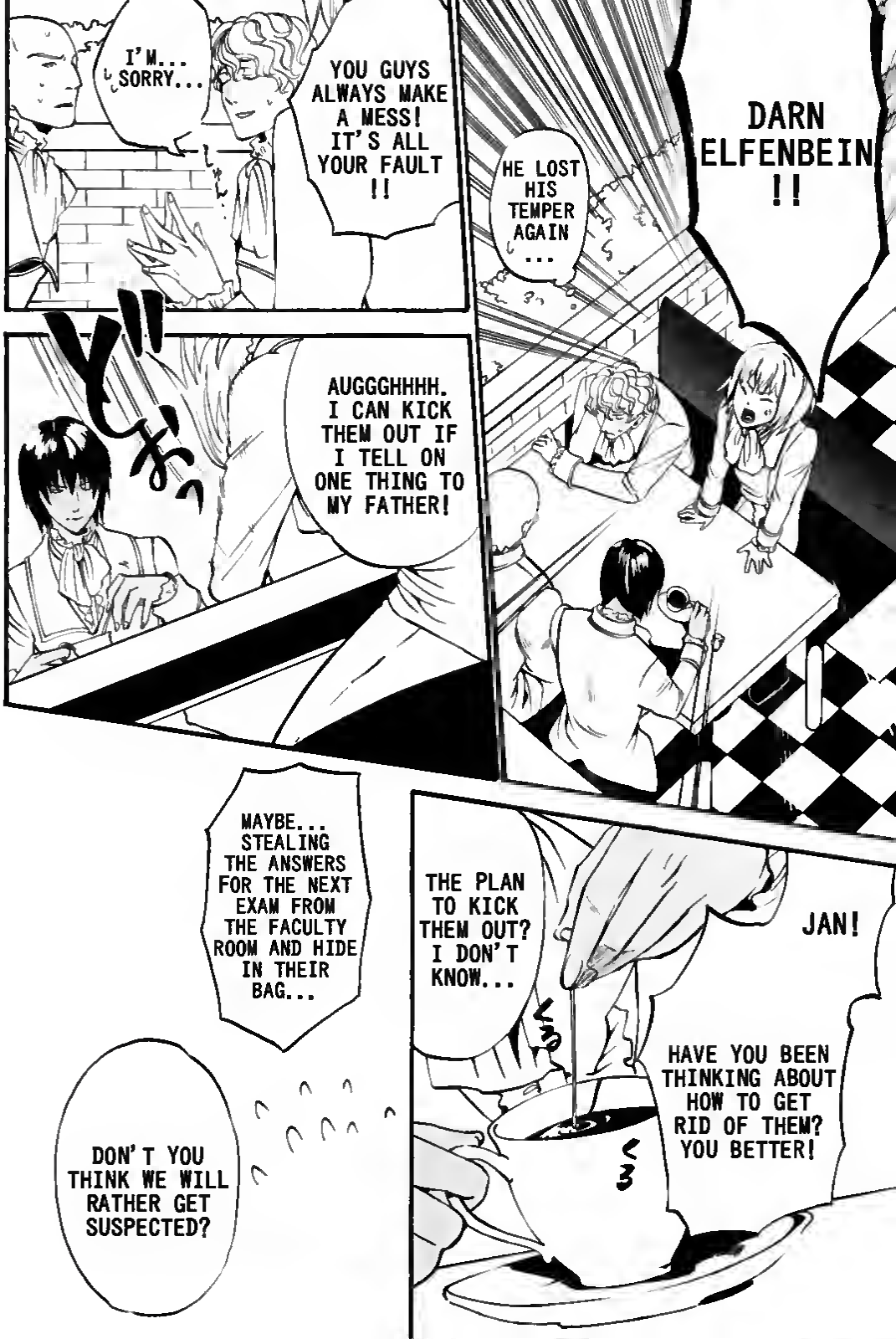
!
AN OPEN DAY.

ANDREW WILL HAVE A TRAP FOR US TO LOOK WELL IN FRONT OF HIS FATHER CONSIDERING HIS PERSONALITY.
IN THAT CASE...

OPEN DAY...
IT'S LIKE ONCE A YEAR SPORT FESTIVAL TO DISPLAY THE RESULT OF OUR EVERYDAY TRAINING.


I GET IT... THERE WILL NOT ONLY BE STUDENTS' FAMILY BUT MILITARY EXECUTIVES OR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ...
THAT'S THE BEST PLACE TO HUMILIATE THOSE FELLOWS WHO IS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEIR PARENTS.

WELL THEN...
HORSE RIDING, FENCING, SHOOTING, CHESS, AND OUT OF ALL THE MULTIPLE EVENTS... THEY WILL PROBABLY CHOOSE THE MAIN EVENT, A CAVALRY BATTLE.
WE JUST ENTER THE EVENT AND THEN THEY WILL MAKE US THEIR ENEMY.
SO EASY TO GUESS WHAT THEY ARE THINKING.
HOW SHOULD WE PUNISH THEM?
NOW WE NEED TO COME UP WITH THE STRATEGY.


I'M... SORRY...
YOU GUYS ALWAYS MAKE A MESS! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT !!
HE LOST HIS TEMPER AGAIN ...
DARN ELFENBEIN !!
AUGGGHHHH. I CAN KICK THEM OUT IF I TELL ON ONE THING TO MY FATHER!
MAYBE... STEALING THE ANSWERS FOR THE NEXT EXAM FROM THE FACULTY ROOM AND HIDE IN THEIR BAG...
THE PLAN TO KICK THEM OUT? I DON'T KNOW...
JAN!
HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING ABOUT HOW TO GET RID OF THEM? YOU BETTER!
DON'T YOU THINK WE WILL RATHER GET SUSPECTED?

...!
WE CAN TAKE A FORGE PICTURE THAT LOOKS LIKE HE BROUGHT A WOMAN IN THE DORMITORY.
WHO WILL DRESS AS A WOMAN? WILL YOU!? I'M TOO TALL FOR THAT.
.....
IS IT HIS...?
UGHHH!
INSTRUCTORS ARE SPOILING THAT MAN! EVEN THOUGH THIS MILITARY ACADEMY IS MINE!!
!!
A PERFECT EVENT FOR IT!!
THERE IS, ANDREW...

EACH OF THEM HOLDS THEIR PURPOSE IN THEIR BOSOM...
THE OPEN DAY STARTED...

YOU ARE LOOKING GOOD, BROTHER JAKE!!
きゃーん
YOUR YOUNGER SISTER?
YEP...
6-2

HOW WAS IT, CRUDUP AND NICOLAS?
AS PERFECT AS WE PLANNED!
MINE IS COMPLETELY READY. HOW ABOUT YOURS, JAKE?
IT WENT VERY WELL TOO!
OKAY...

...!
IT'S ELFENBEIN. I THOUGHT I COULD SMELL COMMON PEOPLE. DID YOU COME TO LOSE TODAY?
WE HAVE NO INTENTION TO LOSE.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, FORTINBRAS. ...YOU WILL LOSE.
HUMPH. YOU SEEM VERY CONFIDENT. THEN WHY DON'T WE DO THIS.
THE LOSER WILL DANCE IN NAKED AT THE AFTER PARTY.
.....
I DUG A PIT FOR YOURSELF, ANDREW...

EACH LEADER STEPS FORWARD.
THE FIRST TEAM THAT SCATTERS THE FLOWER ON LEADER'S CHEST IS THE WINNER.

THE LOSER WILL DANCE IN NAKED AT THE AFTER PARTY. YOU GET IT !?
I CONSENT.
HE-HE-HE. YOU WILL EMBARRASS YOURSELF IN FRONT OF ALL THESE PEOPLE, FORTINBRAS!
I WILL SHOW YOU HOW BRAVE I AM, FATHER...
HUMPH! ARE THEY PRETENDING TO BE KNIGHTS TO PROTECT FORTINBRAS !?

HEY, LET'S GO SEE A CAVALRY BATTLE.
THE CAVALRY BATTLE? NOT THE FENCING?
I HEARD IT'S GETTING INTERESTING.
HOW COULD IT BE INTERESTING ...
IT'S JUST A GAME WITH FAKE SWORDS...
HUH!?
ふおおお
HEY, IS IT REALLY A CAVALRY BATTLE?

I'M WORRIED ANDREW CAN BEAT HIM IN SWORD FIGHTING.
THEY MIGHT BE EQUALLY TALENTED ON HORSEBACK RIDING BUT...
I CAN'T GET NEAR FORTINBRAS BECAUSE OF JACQUES.
SOMETHING IS WRONG ...!
IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED BY NOW.

BOOM
HUH!?
!?
!
!!
WE CAN SEE THOUGH WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO DO!

THAT'S UNFORTUNATE !!
HUEY! PHILIP! WHAT'S GOING ON!?
BUT WE DEFINITELY MADE A CUT...
WHY...
WHY DOESN'T HIS SADDLE COME OFF !?

WHAT THE HELL ...
BLAM
BLAM
WOW.
UGHAAA. HELP ME !!
HUEY!
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
MAKE THE HORSE CALM DOWN ...

WHAAAAAT!?
？
どよ～
.....
GENERAL WARREN, ISN'T HE YOUR SON?
DON'T LOOK!
BUT IF YOU WANNA LOOK
W... WHY...
はぁぁぁ
IS THAT PICTURE THERE...!?
!?
JANIS ...
WHAT IS THIS?
YOU CERTAINLY ARE SKILFUL BUT...
CAN YOU STILL WIN OVER ME?
CLICK!

YOU JERKS!!
YOU ARE PLAYING DIRTY TRICKS, ELFENBEIN!!
SORRY, JANIS...
?...
AREN'T YOU GOING TO BED YET?
NO. A BIT LATER.
WHAT NICOLAS HAS BEEN MAKING FOR NIGHTS.
THIS IS...

...!
COME ON, FORTIN-BRAS!!
.....
WHO'S THE ONE HAS BEEN USING DIRTY TRICKS?

HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?
!?
KIRRIIIIIK
NO! NO! GO FORWARD THAT WAY!!
W...WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

YOUR HORSE WON'T COME THIS WAY...
BECAUSE SHIRO IS A MALE HORSE.
HUH?
...!!
PHILIP'S HORSE ...!?
COULD IT BE!?
MY SOUVENIR, AN APHRODISIAC SEEMS TO BE WORKING.
HEY, LOOK. SOMETHING ELSE IS ON THE MONITOR.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I CUT?
YOU SHOULD CUT LITTLE MORE SO THAT THE SADDLE FALLS SOONER.
ISN'T IT ELFENBEIN'S HORSE?
NICE SHOT.
THAT'S HORRIBLE!
SHOULD WE STOP THEM, INSTRUCTOR?
HMMM. WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?
UAAAAAHH! CALM DOWN! HEY!
UGHA!
.....
CRASH

OUCH
...
SHASHING
HUH?
!!
HOW DO YOU FEEL FALLING FROM YOUR HORSE, ANDREW?
OH, CRAP!
THIS IS UNFAIR
...

YOUR LIFE.
I WILL TAKE...

THUMP

Cheers!!
GOOD JOB TODAY, FON.
ガヤ
ガヤ
OH, THANKS.
WELL, CAN'T YOU DRINK?
I'M STILL SEVENTEEN.
THAT'S RIGHT. I WAS THINKING YOU WERE THE SAME AGE AS ME.

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? FON IS TERRIFIC SO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM YOU.
THAT JERK...
HE'S JEALOUS OF ME TALKING WITH YOU BECAUSE HE RESPECT YOU SO MUCH.
HEY, STUPID!! STOP TALKING !!
WHY? I'M JUST TELLING A TRUTH. YOU TALK ABOUT HIM ALL THE TIME.
UGHAA.
HEY, NICOLAS. LOOK AT THE PEOPLE AROUND FON.
!

THANK YOU.
YOU LOOKED SO COOL WHEN YOU SCATTER THE FLOWER.
SERIOUSLY. DID YOU SEE HOW PITIFUL PLATINES' FACES ARE?
BY THE WAY, THE CAVALRY BATTLE WAS AMAZING. THAT MADE ME FEEL GREAT!
...YOU NEED TO STOP DRINKING THERE.
SUCH A POPULAR MAN HE IS.
FON.
EXCUSE ME.
HEY, ARE YOU GOING ON STAGE TO SHOW US A NAKED DANCE?
...!

ANDREW.
WH... WHAT? THE AFTER PARTY HAS JUST STARTED!
.....
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT.
.....
HUH...?

YOU THINK I DESERVE THAT!!
WHY?
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO SEE A NAKED DANCE.
THAT'S A LIE !!
I WON'T STOP YOU IF YOU WANNA DANCE.
I'M NOT SAYING I'M GOING TO DANCE!
YOU THINK I OWE YOU FOR THIS, BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING !!
I DON'T THINK THAT...
...!
ALTHOUGH NEXT TIME YOU DO ANYTHING TO US...
BE READY FOR WHAT'S COMING.
...

HUMPH !!
JAN.
HUEY.
PHILIP.
LET'S GO!

THIS SHOULD SETTLE THEM DOWN WELL.
.....
FEELS GREAT! LET'S START THE PARTY NOW !!
CRUDUP, YOU HAVE LIQUOR ON YOUR BREATH!
THIS IS AN AFTER PARTY! LET'S HAVE A DRINKING MATCH!
A MATCH!?
GEEZ...
!

OKAY.
I'M GOING FOR A RUN, JAKE.
A FEW MONTHS PAST SINCE THE OPEN DAY...
ANDREW'S GROUP DOESN'T TRY TO BOTHER US SO MUCH ANYMORE.
CHAPTER 9

STARTED TO TRUST AND RESPECT FON BEFORE WE WERE AWARE OF IT.
ON THE OTHER HAND, FON'S CLASS-MATES ARE...
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY WERE RAGED FOR EMBARRASSING THEIR PARENTS.
HASN'T BEEN CHANGED.
NICOLAS'S ATTITUDE TOWARD JAKE...
はっ
!
ﾀｯ

JANIS
...
HIS RIGHT HAND AND BOTH OF HIS LEGS BELOW KNEES ARE ADVANCED BIOGENIC PROSTHETICS.
.....

HEY, FORTINBRAS.
.....!
ARE YOU JOGGING TOO?
NO... I'M GOING BACK TO MY ROOM.
.....
YEAH.
.....
GOOD MORNING. YOU ARE UP EARLY.

WAIT.
POUND!
...!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF ANDREW BUT NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO TALK.
THIS RIGHT HAND IS...?
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN CHATTING WITH YOU...
.....
YOU ... DON'T LIKE PEOPLE ARE SELLING AND BUYING CLONE TECHNOLOGY IN THIS ISLAND.

WHY DID YOU SAY THAT...
YOU KNOW ABOUT MY BODY, DON'T YOU?
.....
I HEARD ABOUT... PROSTHE-SISES.
YES.
LONG TIME AGO, I LOST MOST OF MY LIMBS.
THIS HAND AND LEGS...
WERE REPRODUCED AS BEFORE ...
WITH MY OWN CELL.

I THANK ILEGENES FOR BEING ABLE TO RUN LIKE THIS.
....
REGENERATIVE TREATMENT IS LIMITED BY THE CLONE LAW OUTSIDE OF THIS ISLAND BUT I WAS ABLE TO GET THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF IT ...
IT'S ALL BECAUSE ILEGENES IS THIS KIND OF ISLAND.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
!
REGAINING HAND AND LEGS THAT HAD BEEN LOST ONCE IS AS JOYFUL AS REGAINING A LIFE.

.....
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU ARE...
A SON OF AN INFLUENTIAL FIGURE IN THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND?
IF THAT'S THE CASE ...
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM ?

!
JANIS'S YOUNGER BROTHER?

THEY ARE TWINS, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY WOULD THINK BUT...
I HEARD A RUMOR THAT HE IS A CLONE OF JANIS. IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIS BODY.
YEAH, THAT GUY SITTING ON THE BENCH.
HUH, THEY LOOK EXACTLY A LIKE.
...CLONE?
ACTUALLY IT'S POSSIBLE IF JANIS IS RELATED TO THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND.
EH?
I'LL GO TALK TO HIM A LITTLE.
ISN'T IT TOO CRUEL TO LET HIM LIVE OUTSIDE OF WOMB TANK?
BUT IF THAT'S THE TRUTH...

EXCUSE ME...
...AH, THIS PLACE...
I WAS JUST SITTING HERE WHILE WAITING FOR MY BROTHER ...BUT WILL YOU SIT HERE?
NO... THAT'S NOT WHY I CAME.
...?
IF HE IS A CLONE...
DOES HE KNOW?
ARE YOU A FRIEND OF MY BROTHER?
WHAT HE IS.
HIS MEANING TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD.
DOES HE KNOW EVERYTHING ...?

A LIVING FLESH THAT DOESN'T HAVE CIVIL RIGHTS.
AND IS USED WHEN HUMAN NEEDS IT.
!
I JUST MET YOU AND IT MIGHT BE RUDE TO SAY THIS BUT YOUR BROTHER IS...
.....
.....
A KIND BROTHER TO ME.

ニコ
PLEASE CONTINUE BEING HIS FRIEND.
WHAT IF I WAS THAT KIND OF BEING...
SHIVER...
.....
HOW...

HORRIBLE THIS ISLAND IS...
IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE OUR WELCOME CONCERT FOR FRESHMEN.
CRUDUP IS UNUSUALLY BEING QUIET.
I COME FROM A MUSICAL FAMILY.
OH, YEAH?
NEXT NUMBER IS...
WHISPER...
HEY, LOOK RIGHT THERE...

I SAW HIS EYES WHEN I PASSED BY HIM AT THE ENTRANCE. THEY WERE REALLY BEAUTIFUL.
IT'S CALLED PEACOCK EYES. JUST LIKE DEEP AND CLEAR OCEAN.
THAT'S MR. FORTINBRAS!
SO COOL! HE IS ALSO INTELLIGENT AND A GREAT ATHLETE!
JERK
HA-HA.
HEY, YOU ARE REALLY POPULAR WITH THE YOUNGER BOYS.
.....
SEEMS LIKE THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN CHANGED A LITTLE THIS YEAR.

WHAT'S UP?
MOZART'S FORTIETH SYMPHONY IN G MINOR...
THIS NUMBER IS...
K. 550 ...
NO...
BUT... I CAN'T WALK AWAY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CONCERT.
NOTHING.

MY ADOPTIVE FATHER WAS LISTENING MOZART OFTEN BUT...
FOR SOME REASON HE ONLY DIDN'T LISTEN THIS ONE.
....!
IT STARTED AGAIN ...
EVER SINCE I HEARD THIS SONG OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE, I CAN'T LISTEN THIS MELODY ...
MY HEAD STARTS HURTING...
I GET NAUSEOUS.

I CAN'T MOVE.
I FEEL ...SICK.
...FON? YOUR FACE IS TURNING PALE...
!?
RATTLE
HEY!
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH FON?
CRUDUP AND NICOLAS. TELL INSTRUCTOR I'M TAKING FON TO THE INFIRMARY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? HE WAS FINE A MOMENT AGO...
CAN YOU WALK?
.....

.....
HOLD ON TIGHT.
HE CAN'T ...
PULL
HMM.
YOU DON'T HAVE A FEVER SO JUST TAKE A REST NOW AND LET'S CHECK AGAIN LATER.
THANK YOU.
.....
PHEW

WERE YOU GETTING SICK LATELY?
IT'S RARE OF YOU... YOU'VE BEEN UNBELIEVABLY HEALTHY SINCE YOU ENTERED THE ACADEMY.
WHEN I LISTEN TO K. 550...
I FEEL SICK SINCE LONG AGO.
はぁ...
IS THERE ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT ...?
...!
JUST RECALLING OF THAT MELODY... MAKES ME ILL...

YOU MUST HEARD IT FROM YOUR GUN, JAKE...
....?
YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO HEARD THAT NOISE WHEN THE GUN WENT OFF.
YOUR EAR COULD PICK UP... THE SLIGHT NOISE THAT I WHO WAS USING THE GUN COULDN'T EVEN HEAR.
.....
MAYBE ...

DIFFERENT?
YOUR HEARING IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS ...
WELL... I MEAN...

DO YOU ALSO THINK MY ADOPTIVE FATHER PLAYED WITH MY BRAIN?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
BUT SOMETIMES YOU LOOK ...
AWFULLY ...
AWFULLY...
INSECURE ...
!!

HIS IMAGE IS AS INSECURE AS ADJUSTING HIMSELF TO THE LAND BUT STILL WAVERING ...
FON IS LACKING IN "CERTAINTY" OF A PERSON GROWS UP, BY ROOTING IN THE SOIL.
LIKE AN AQUATIC PLANT.
THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.
I'VE NEVER MET A PERSON WHO GETS NAUSEA BY LISTENING TO MOZART.
I THINK SO TOO BUT...
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU DON'T LIKE CERTAIN FOOD. THAT SONG DOESN'T SUIT ME.

I WAS CLOSE BY BUT I COULDN'T HEAR...
AGAIN ...
I'M THE ONLY ONE IRREGULAR PERSON?
I HEARD THAT MOZART CAUSES GOOD EFFECT ON BRAIN.
I SEE ...
FON...
YOU'VE BEEN TAKING THAT MEDICINE YOU FATHER'S DOCTOR PRESCRIBED...
IS IT REALLY A TRANQUILIZER?

IF THAT IS NOT THEN WHAT IS IT?
!!!
IF NOT A STABILIZER ...
WHAT ARE THOSE MEDICINES ...
FON...
DO YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHO YOU ARE...?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS THOUGH...
.....

THE MASS MEDIA REPORTED
THE HEAD OF STATE WAS REAPPOINTED TODAY.
A ROTTEN GOVERNMENT.
THE CONTINUATION OF...
THAT'S THE...
.....
"FUTURE" THE NATION OF ILEGENES HAS CHOSEN.

CHAPTER
10

ANDREW WAS BEING QUIET FOR A WHILE BUT HE MIGHT START BRAGGING ABOUT IT.
EDGAR CHRISTOPHERSON IS REAPPOINTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER...
WHO IS THAT GUY NEXT TO HIM?
HE'S YOUNG... WHO IS THAT?
ぴく
I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM BUT THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING HIM.
HE IS THAT GUY?
AH, A NEW MINISTER, DANIEL B. DUNCAN.

HE IS YOUNG BUT CONSIDERABLY SHREWD MAN.
THE ELECTION WAS IN UNFAVORABLE CONDITION BY PREMIER'S BRIBERY SCANDAL.
BECAUSE DUNCAN TOOK CHARGE OF THE WHOLE THING.
SOMEONE HAS TO FORCIBLY CHANGE THE CORE OTHERWISE THIS ROTTING OF THE ISLAND KEEPS PROGRESSING.
DANIEL B. DUNCAN...
THE VOICE THAT SEEKS FOR A DISCIPLINE IS SHUT BY VIOLENCE.
DUNCAN ...
DOESN'T CHANGE DOESN'T TRY TO CHANGE.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HIM?
.....
I THOUGHT I COULD EXPECTED SOMETHING FROM HIM...
BUT WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT.
NO.
I'M DISPLEASED WITH IT.

POLITICIANS ARE ALL THE SAME.
.....
BUT HE IS STILL IN HIS TWENTIETH AND A MEMBER OF CONGRESS.
THAT'S UNUSUAL FOR A POLITICIAN OF ILEGENES.
.....
THEY ARE ALL HAVE COLLUSIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND.
FAR FROM CONTROLLING ILLEGAL GENE MANIPULATION, THEY ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE TO FILL THEIR OWN POCKETS.

THIS IS THE END OF THE WORLD.
WHOEVER THE SUPERIOR PERSON IS IF ONE DOES NOT USE THAT POWER TO A PURIFICATION OF THE ISLAND, NOTHING WILL BE CHANGED.
THE NATION IS SUPPORTING THAT ROTTEN GOVERNMENT!?
THAT IS THE PROBLEM !!
ISN'T THERE ANYBODY WITH A DECENT ETHICAL PERSPECTIVE IN ILEGENES?
FON...?
RATTLE
WELL... WHEN ILLEGAL MATTER HAPPENS ROUTINELY, HOW COULD THEY CONTROL?
BESIDES, THIS ISLAND CAN SURVIVE BECAUSE OF THAT...

.....
I DON'T KNOW IF THEY ARE LEANING ON OR IN COLLUSION EACH OTHER ...
ALL THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ...
POLITICIANS ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE TO STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT WHAT IS WRONG.
OTHERWISE WHO WOULD!?
THE NATION OF ILEGENES IS ROTTEN.
AS ARE THE MILITARY THAT PROTECTS THOSE PEOPLE!!

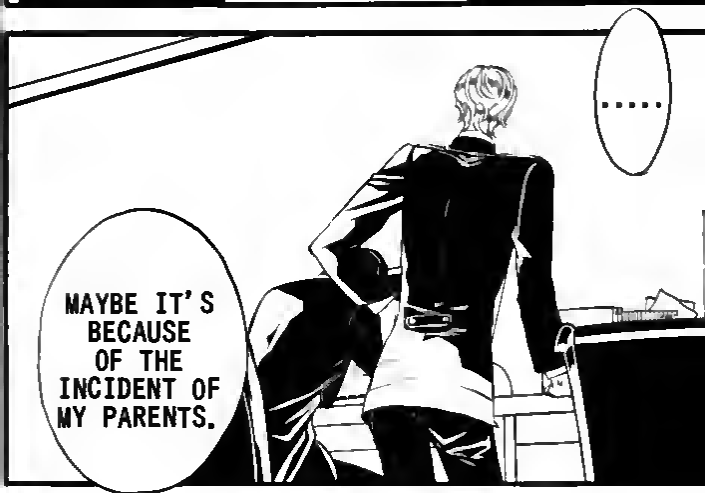
GO TO HELL!!
SHOULD ...
....
...TSK.

BUT...
.....
THAT WASN'T A CRITICISM, IT WAS JUST A COMPLAIN.
WILL HE BE OKAY?
MILITARY MIGHT BE JUST WHAT THEY DISPLAY BUT IT'S A BAN TO CRITICIZE THEIR SYSTEM.
IF THE INSTRUCTORS HEARD ABOUT THIS, IT'LL AFFECT HIS EVALUATION.
.....
ガチャッ
FON.

I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL BUT THAT WAS THOUGHTLESS TO SPEAK OUT LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY.
.....

.....
MY FATHER AND MOTHER WERE TRYING HARD TO WAKE UP THE MIND OF PEOPLE IN ILEGENES.

I'LL BE CAREFUL.
YOU NORMALLY KNOW HOW TABOO THAT KIND OF UTTERANCE IS...


.....
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF THE INCIDENT OF MY PARENTS.

I CANNOT FORGIVE ...
THOSE MEN WHO SHUT MY PARENTS' MOUTHS WITH VIOLENCE ...
AND THE PEOPLE WHO ARE TOLERATING ABOUT IT.
POLITICIANS WHO ONLY USE THEIR AUTHORITY FOR THEIR OWN PERSONAL GAIN.
AND THE PEOPLE WHO SET THOSE FELLOWS UP IN HIGH POSITION...
THEY WERE JUST APPEALING TO THE PUBLIC...
BUT...
THE PLACE YOU ARE AIMING IS ...
WHERE THOSE FELLOWS THROWING THEIR WIGHT AROUND.

.....
I KNOW.
JAKE IS RIGHT.
THEN...
HIDE YOUR TRUE THOUGHT.
I...
CAN'T END IN THIS PLACE.
UNTIL YOU GET TO THE PLACE.

I HAVE TO HIDE THIS IRRESISTIBLE FEELING INSIDE OF ME.
YOU ARE RIGHT.
!!
WHY WAS I RUSHING MYSELF?
JAKE...

IN ORDER TO GET THERE...
チラ…
……
KILL HIM!

WHOSE IS THIS VOICE PUSHING ME?
キュッ
KILL ALL OF THEM!
IS IT MY DAD AND MOM'S VOICE OF DESPAIR?
THEN I WILL ...

CHANGE THIS ISLAND.
REACH THE TOP OF ILLEGENES AND OBTAIN AN ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY.
THIS ISLAND CAN GO BACK TO THE BEAUTIFUL ISLAND LIKE THE PICTURES I SAW LONG TIME AGO.
I WILL CLEAN UP THE BLACK MARKET MY PARENTS HATED.
THOSE ARTIFICIAL HUMANS WERE GENERATED POINTLESSLY...
THIS ISLAND SHOULD BE ABLE TO STAND ITS OWN WITHOUT SUCH A THING.
BUT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE FREELY AS INDIVIDUALS.

I FEEL WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD ...
I FEEL ITS POSSIBILITY ...

I'M NOT ALONE...
THEY ARE WITH ME...
SO I CAN...

BUT USUAL LIFE WILL GRADUALLY BE RUINING...

THAT MAN
IS...

THAT SCAR OF HIS FACE ...
.....
...?
WHAT'S WRONG ...
FON?
THAT MUST BE.
DAD...
MOM...
.....

TWO HIDDEN SPIRALS...
HE'S THE ONE WHO MURDERED THEM.
STARTED MOVING.

WAKE UP SLEEPY-HEAD.
UMM...
GOOD MORNING, FON.
GOOD MORNING.
DAD... MOM...

HAPPY THIRTEENTH BIRTHDAY.
USUAL GOOD MORNING KISSES.
IT'S WARM ...
HUGS ...
AAH ...
I FINALLY MET...

CHAPTER
11

THERE IS NO MISTAKE.
HE IS THE ONE WHO WAS TAKING COMMAND.
THE ONE WHO TOOK PARENTS AWAY FROM ME.
THUMP!
....!

I CAN TAKE HIS LIFE.
THE ONE WHO MURDERED HIS PARENTS ...?
WHAT IS HE THINKING ...!?
!
I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY!
FON !?
WHERE ARE YOU GUYS GOING?
WE'LL COME BACK RIGHT AWAY SO PLEASE WAIT HERE!

WAIT!
FON!
I WON'T, FON!
LET ME GO!
WHY DO YOU STOP ME !?
!?
JAKE ...!
I CAN'T LET HIM MAKE A TROUBLE IN THE CITY.
HE MURDERED MY DAD AND MOM...
HE IS THE ONE!

...!
PLEASE ...
CALM DOWN!
I CAN'T LET HIM GO NOW ...
I FINALLY ...
FOUND HIM!
FON!

.....
.....
WHY DID YOU STOP ME!
THAT WAS A CHANCE TO REVENGE ON MY PARENTS!!
ANSWER ME... JAKE!!

STOP THINKING ABOUT SUCH A STUPID THING LIKE A REVENGE!
LET THE POLICE TAKE CARE OF IT.
THE POLICE ...?
WHAT CAN THE POLICE IN THIS ISLAND DO?
THEY ARE NOT RELIABLE.
ALL OF THEM ARE BRIBED BY THE BLACK MARKET.
IN FACT, THEY DIDN'T TAKE ANY DECENT ACTION WHEN THE MURDER HAPPENED.
EVEN THE POLICE CAN'T INTERFERE OR INVESTIGATE THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND.
THE POLICE STOPPED INVESTIGATING IN ONLY A WEEK!
.....

THAT'S WHY I SWORE MY HEART TO TRAIN MYSELF IN THE MILITARY ACADEMY...
IF I CAN'T RELY ON THE POLICE OR ANYBODY, I HAVE TO BECOME STRONG.
AND I GAIN A POWER TO REVENGE THEM!
FON.
I SWORE AND I CAME HERE.
THIS IS THE TIME!
I HAVE TO REVENGE ON MY OWN!
I HAVE TO...
FON! STOP THINKING ABOUT SUCH A THING!!

ARE YOU TRYING TO BECOME A MURDERER AND LOSE EVERYTHING !?
I DON'T CARE!!
CALM DOWN!
!!
YOUR PARENTS WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO RUIN YOUR LIFE FOR REVENGING.
IF I WERE YOUR FATHER, I WOULD THINK SO.
PLEASE, CHILL OUT.

....!
TELL THEM ABOUT THE MAN YOU SAW TODAY... OKAY?
I CAN'T LET YOU BECOME A MURDERER FOR REVENGE.
.....
I'LL GO TO THE POLICE WITH YOU TOMORROW.

...OKAY.
BUT THE NEXT DAY...

FON'S DRAWINGS OF THE MAN WAS QUITE ACCURATE.
A RESPONSE OF THE POLICE TOWARD US WAS SHADY.
BUT THEY REACTED AWKWARDLY SLOW AND DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO LISTEN TO US.
I TOLD YOU WE CAN'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM THE POLICE.
THEY HAVE NO INTENSION TO DEAL WITH AN INCIDENT RELATED TO THE BLACK MARKET.
.....
THEY SEEMED DISTURBED BY THIS DRAWINGS THOUGH....

.....
SO THEY KNEW THESE GUYS...?
WHO ARE THEY THEN?
...FON SEEMS IRRITATED LATELY.
YEAH...
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
HE SEEMS RESTLESS AFTER THE DAY WE WENT TO A CAFE.
NICOLAS WAS SAYING THE SAME THING.

.....
FON... I HOPE HE DOESN'T DO ANYTHING STUPID...

THIS VOICE IS...
FORTINBRAS.
NICOLAS, CAN I COME IN?
KNOCK KNOCK

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.
WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S RARE OF YOU TO COME ...
I WANT YOU TO HACK THE DATABASE OF THE DISTRICT LAND TRANSPORT BUREAU WITH YOUR PROGRAMING SKILL.
A HACKING !?
...IS THAT A LICENSE PLATE?
YOU DON'T MIND CLOSING THE FILES HERE, RIGHT?
WHY DON'T YOU OFFICIALLY APPLY FOR AN INQUIRY ?
I DON'T WANT TO BE TRACED.

BUT...
WAIT, FORTINBRAS !!
THIS IS ILLEGAL.
I CAN'T DO THIS ...
JUST ...
DO IT.
.....

THE OWNER IS A CORPORATION IN THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND...
ALBATROSS TECHNOLOGY COMPANY...IT'S A INTERCESSION CORPORATION THAT HANDLES DESIGNED BABIES.
TICK-TICK
NICOLAS, WHERE'S JANIS?
HE SAID HE'S GOING TO THE LIBRARY.
BUT WHY ARE YOU SEARCHING THIS...!?
OKAY, LIBRARY, RIGHT?
...
IT REALLY BELONGS TO THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND!
SO THE ONE WHO KILLED MY PARENTS BELONGS TO THIS COMPANY TOO?

JANIS.
YES?
.....
カチャ
I WANNA ASK YOU SOMETHING.
SURE, BUT...
HOW RARE OF YOU TO TALK TO ME...
ス…
DO YOU KNOW THIS GUY?
...? NO, I DON'T KNOW.

THEN HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
ぱら
.....
ARE YOU...
LOOKING FOR THESE MEN? WHAT FOR?
I SEE.
THEN...
I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT.

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME?
THAT'S ...
BECAUSE YOU ARE FROM THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND.
.....

HE DIDN'T DENY IT...
IF YOU'RE SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE, YOU SHOULD ASK AROUND ON EAST THIRD AVENUE.
THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND.
EAST THIRD AVENUE...
THIS IS THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND.
I CAN'T BREATH WELL HERE...

THAT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS!
IF I DIDN'T GET A CUSTOMER TODAY I'LL BE IN TROUBLE.
WHY DON'T YOU BUY ME TONIGHT?
HUMPH... YOU HAVE A SURPRISINGLY BEAUTIFUL FACE.
WHAT THE HELL ...?
!!
BLOW
THAT STORE WILL BUY IT RIGHT AWAY.
THEN I CAN GET AN INTRODUCTION FEE.
DON'T WORRY IT DOESN'T HURT. JUST SWAB IN THE MOUTH.
YOU WILL GET A LOT OF MONEY WITH YOUR BEAUTIFUL FACE...
...!?
WELL, THEN ...
DO YOU WANNA SELL YOUR GENE?

JUST A LITTLE... OKAY?
THIS IS INSANE ...
!
AH, HEY! WAIT...
SWAB IN A MOUTH ooo?
THAT STORE WILL SELL MY BODY IN PIECES.
....
I'M SORRY.

DID YOU SEE THAT KID'S EYES...?
WEREN'T THEY PEACOCK EYES?
THEY'LL BE A GREAT AMOUNT OF MONEY IF WE SELL.
THIS IS NOT GOOD!!
TSK! HE HEARD US!! GO AFTER HIM!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS PLACE!?
!!
A MERMAID?

ゆら…
IS SHE... ALIVE?
...!!
UGH.
A FAILED WORK...
UGH ... COUGH
COUGH
WORSE THAN I EXPECTED ...
フラ…
.....
...DON'T KNOW.
ARE YOU SURE? HAVEN'T YOU EVEN SEEN HIM ONCE?
...

WHAT'S YOUR ORDER?
DO YOU KNOW THIS GUY?
DON'T WANT ANYTHING. ANYWAY, THIS FACE...
...!
WELL, THEN LEAVE!
BY THE WAY...IF YOU CAN'T DRINK, WE DO "BACKSIDE" BUSINESS TOO.
I'LL ASK OTHER PLACE.
WHAT'S GOING ON? I CAN'T FIND ANY CLUE ABOUT THE GUY.
IRRITATED
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY, YOU SHOULD ASK AT THE BARS ON EAST THIRD AVENUE.
HUMPH ...
YES, GIVE ME ANY INFOR-MATION.
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THIS GUY?

JOE ON AMNA STREET...
I SEE, THANKS.
WHISPER
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS GUY, VISIT JOE ON AMNA STREET.
IS IT AROUND HERE...? THERE'S NOBODY AROUND...
AMNA STREET ...
AMNA STREET ...
....

ARE YOU THE ONE SNIFFING AROUND?
.....
WHO ARE THEY?
HA-HA, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU WERE TRICKED!
DON'T HURT HIS FACE, GUYS!!
WHAT A NAIVE BOY...!!
HUH... NICE FACE ...AND PEACOCK EYES!
ROTTEN TASTE WEALTHY PEOPLE WILL BUY HIM FOR A HIGH PRICE.
ARE YOU "JOE ON ANMA STREET?"

DARN YOU!
ARGG!
UGHAAA

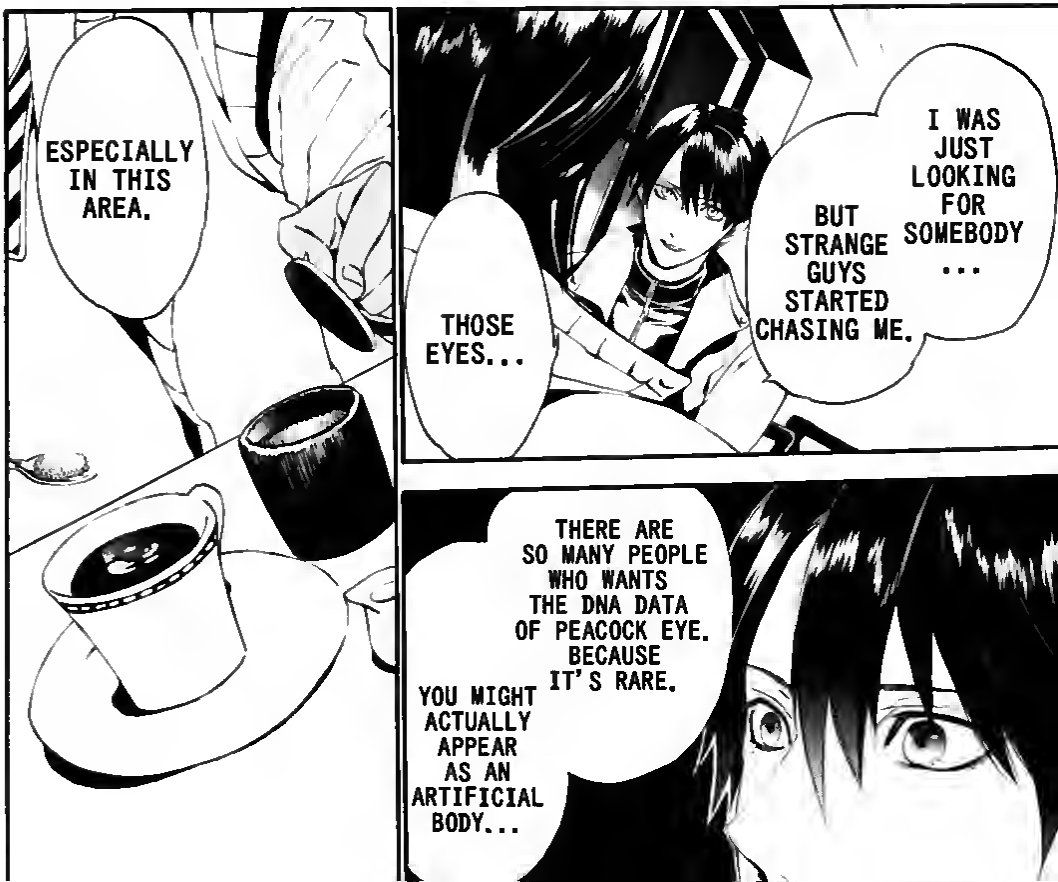
HE'S JUST A KID. ATTACK HIM IN NUMBERS!
IT'S TOO MANY PEOPLE ...!
UGH...
DASH!
...!! HE RAN AWAY!
NOBODY CAN GET AWAY FROM US IN THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND!

THEY ARE REALLY PERSISTENT...!
WHERE IS THAT KID!?
HE SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE. LOOK AROUND!
ズル
CAN I GET AWAY FROM THEM?
I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS AREA SO THAT'S DEFINITELY A DISADVANTAGE FOR ME.
I WILL BE...
!!
GRAB
...EH?

SHH
JANIS !?
WHY ARE YOU...
YOU ARE ...
A FRIEND OF MY BROTHER, RIGHT?

CHAPTER
12

YOU SAVED ME...
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE'S A NORMAL CAFE LIKE THIS IN THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND.

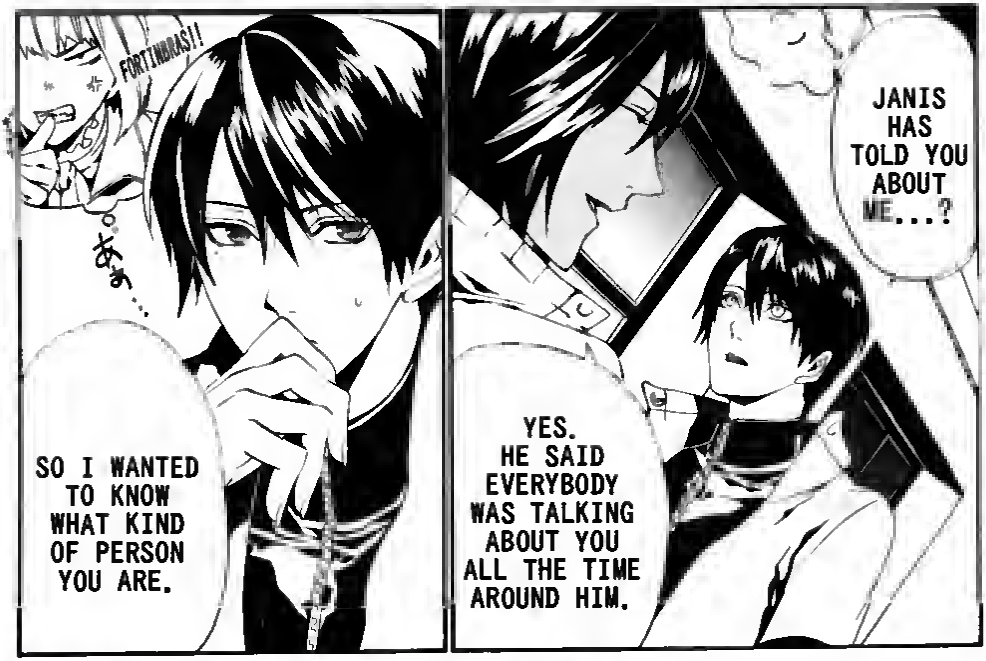

ESPECIALLY IN THIS AREA.
THOSE EYES...
BUT STRANGE GUYS STARTED CHASING ME.
I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY ...
YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY APPEAR AS AN ARTIFICIAL BODY...
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO WANTS THE DNA DATA OF PEACOCK EYE. BECAUSE IT'S RARE.

OH. YOU CAN USE MY INFRARED GLASSES.
YOU ARE RIGHT. I WAS CARELESS.
OH, YEAH. JAKE TOLD ME ABOUT THAT A WHILE AGO.
IT'S AN OLD PAIR BUT YOU CAN SEE THROUGH AT NIGHT WITH THEM.
YOU SHOULD WEAR THEM WHILE YOU ARE AROUND THIS AREA.
SUCH A EXPENSIVE STUFF...
INFRARED GLASSES?
AND YOU ARE JANIS' S ...
...THANK YOU.

ES...
MY NAME IS J.S.
ES MEANS "ONESELF" ...ISN'T IT?
EVERYBODY CALLS ME "ES" ...
EH?
A FORM OF THE SELF TO BE PRECISE.
IT'S A NICE NAME.

I'M...
FON.
RIGHT?
.....
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE LAST TIME.
I LEFT WITHOUT ASKING YOUR NAME...
I ACTUALLY KNEW YOU WHEN YOU TALKED TO ME AT THE SCHOOL.
I FIRST SAW YOU AT THE OPEN DAY LAST YEAR.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. I CAN'T TELL MY BROTHER BUT...
I WAS FASCINATED HOW BRAVE YOU WERE.
UHH, YOU WERE THERE TO SEE JANIS.
YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T FEEL GOOD ABOUT WHAT WE DID.

AND MY BROTHER HAS TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.
I WAS SURPRISED BECAUSE I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYONE WHO IS SMARTER THAN HIM.


JANIS HAS TOLD YOU ABOUT ME...?
YES. HE SAID EVERYBODY WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME AROUND HIM.
FORTUNOAS!!
あぁ…
SO I WANTED TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE.

YOU SEEMED WORRYING ABOUT SOMETHING WHEN I SAW YOU AT THE SCHOOL...
SO I'M GLAD I GET TO TALK TO YOU TODAY.

ANYWAYS, WHAT A COINCIDENCE TO SEE YOU IN SUCH A PLACE...
.....
THE SAME FACE AS JANIS BUT...
HE HAS A RICHER FACIAL EXPRESSION ...
YOU SAID YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY ?
I DON'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU BUT ...
IT'S STRANGE THAT A PERSON LIKE YOU IS LOOKING FOR A PERSON IN THE SHADE OF ISLAND...
WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.
YEAH...
BUT I WAS JUST TURNED AWAY ANYWHERE I WENT.

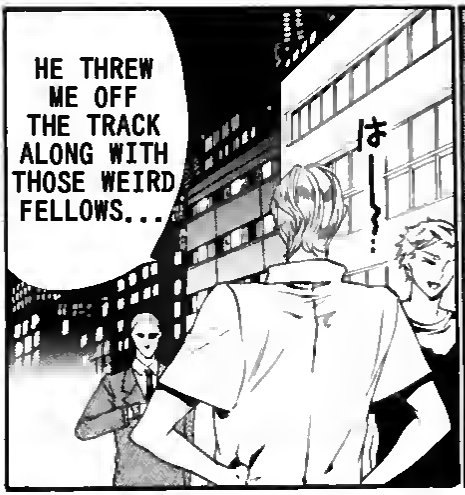
BACKYARD...
...!
THIS IS LIKE A "BACKYARD" TO ME.
ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THIS AREA?
.....
THEN...
JANIS TOLD ME TO ASK AROUND ON EAST THIRD AVENUE WHEN I SHOWED THIS TO HIM.
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS GUY?

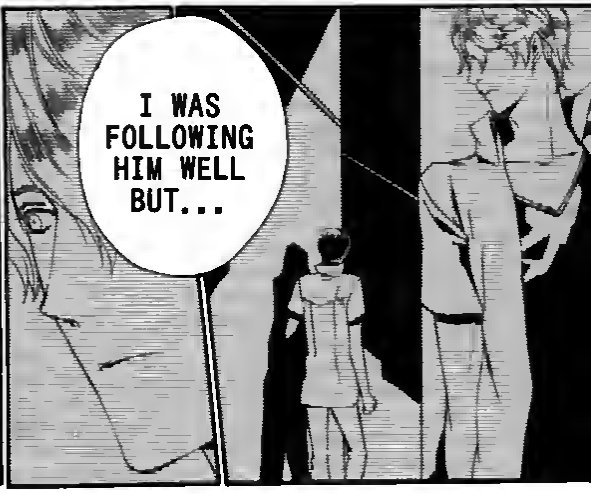
ANY CLUE?
....
MY BROTHER SAID THAT ...?
I'M SORRY ...
I DON'T KNOW HIM.
BUT...
HE PROBABLY IS RELATED TO THE BLACK MARKET IF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS OF EAST THIRD AVENUE RESPONDED TO THIS DRAWING.
I SEE.
IS THAT RIGHT?
!

PEOPLE WITH THE BLACK MARKET INFORMATION GATHER IN THAT AREA.
THEN THOSE MEN ARE FROM THE BLACK MARKET ...!
OKAY, THEN.
I'LL KEEP ON ASKING AROUND THAT AREA.
THANK YOU, ES.
!!
WAIT, FON.
CLATTER.
...?

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I CAN GUIDE YOU AROUND.
THIS TOWN IS... DANGEROUS FOR A STRANGER TO WALK AROUND BY HIMSELF.
!
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
...
WHEW
...

FON... WHERE DID HE GO?


HE THREW ME OFF THE TRACK ALONG WITH THOSE WEIRD FELLOWS...
は――!?


I WAS FOLLOWING HIM WELL BUT...

I HOPE HE'S OKAY.

REALLY...

!
THAT MAN...
WHERE IS HE GOING ...?
THE GUY WHO WAS WITH THE MAN FON IS LOOKING FOR!

RENO GENERAL CORPORATION…
RENO?
RENO IS JANIS'S FAMILY NAME...
IF HIS FATHER REALLY WAS A BIG INFLUENCE OF THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND...
COULD IT BE ...?

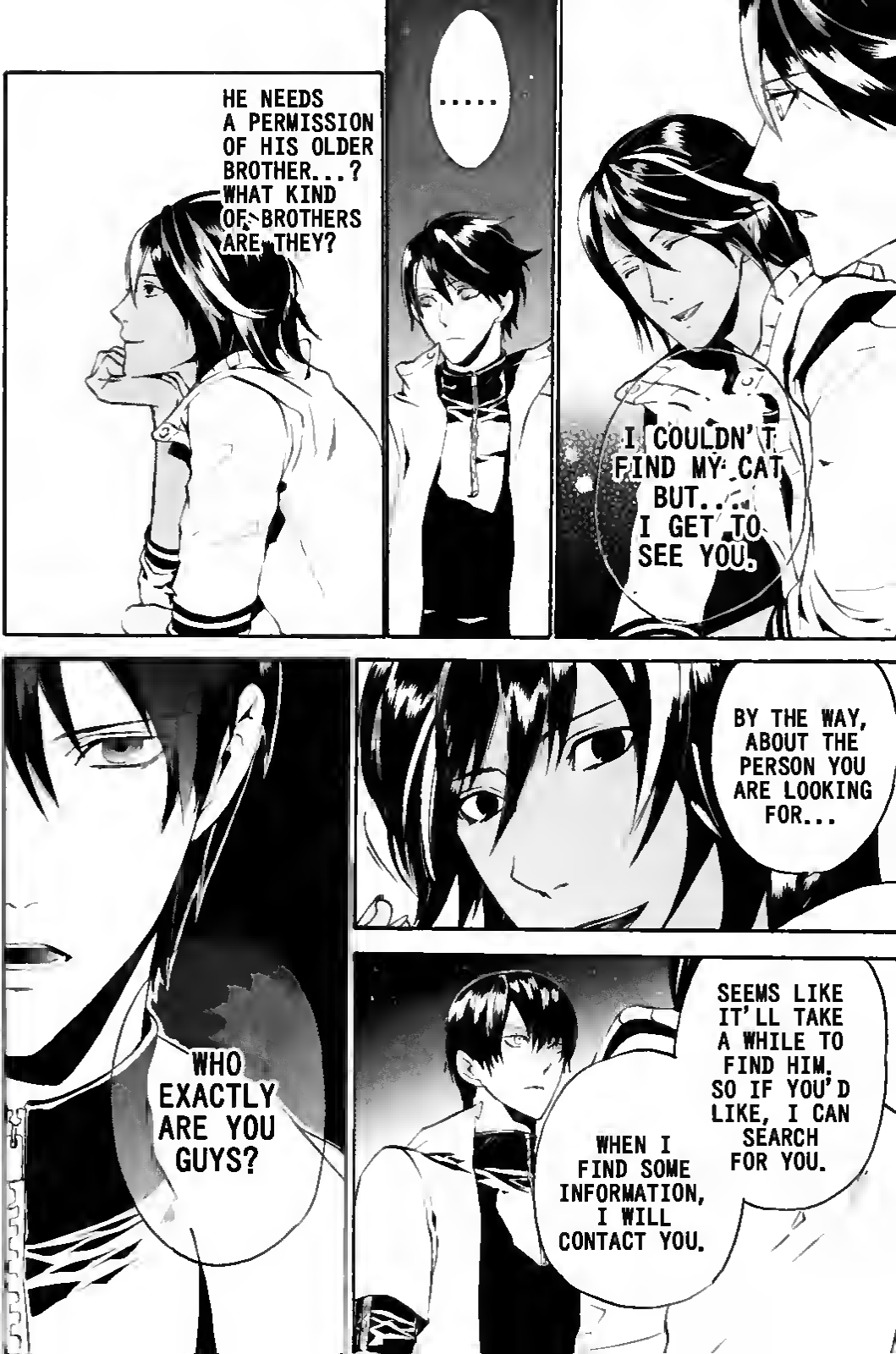
GOOD EVENING.
WELL, HOW MAY I HELP YOU TODAY?
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PERSON?
?
HMM... I'M SORRY BUT I HAVE NO IDEA.
I SEE ...
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.
....
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, SIR.

FON, LET'S GO TO THE NEXT PLACE.
YEAH.
COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ATTITUDE...
HE CAN ENTER ANYWHERE WITHOUT A SECURITY CHECK.
LUXURY BARS AND CLUBS FOR MEMBERS ONLY...
THIS IS LIKE A "BACKYARD" TO ME.

WHAT KIND OF PERSON ARE YOU...?
HE IS VERY DIFFICULT PERSON TO FIND...
ES...
.....

DAWN BREAKS SOON...
.....
WE FINALLY COULDN'T FIND ANY CLUE...
NO...
ARE YOU GOOD AT SKETCHING ?
NOT AS GOOD AS YOU ARE BUT...
I LIKE PAINTING.
I COME HERE OFTEN...
TO SKETCH.

HOW ABOUT JANIS?
NOPE.
MY BROTHER IS GOOD AT IT BUT I DON'T THINK HE LIKES IT AS MUCH AS I DO.
I NORMALLY CAN'T COME OUTSIDE WITHOUT MY BROTHER'S PERMISSION BUT...
SOMETIMES HE GIVES ME SOME TIME TO SKETCH.
ES... YOU NEED JANIS'S PERMISSION TO GO OUT?
HOW ABOUT TODAY?
HA-HA. TODAY IS DIFFERENT.
I CAME OUT TO LOOK FOR MY CAT.

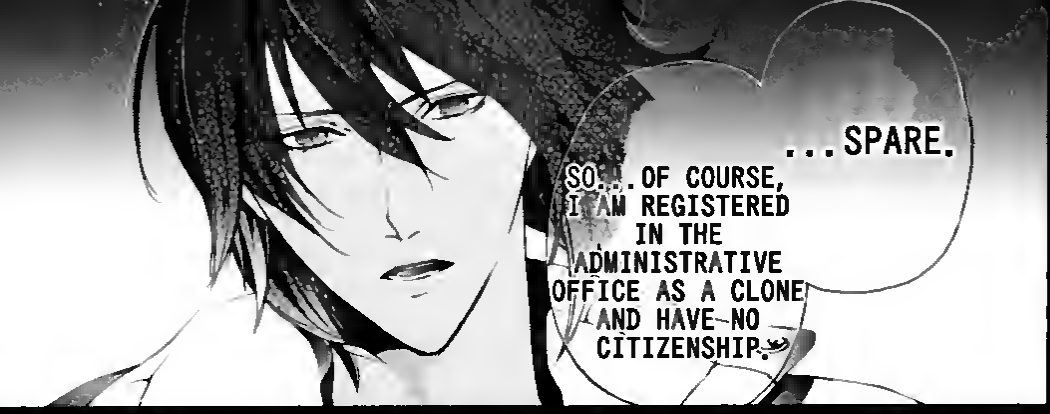

HE NEEDS A PERMISSION OF HIS OLDER BROTHER...? WHAT KIND OF BROTHERS ARE THEY?
.....
I COULDN'T FIND MY CAT BUT... I GET TO SEE YOU.
BY THE WAY, ABOUT THE PERSON YOU ARE LOOKING FOR...
SEEMS LIKE IT'LL TAKE A WHILE TO FIND HIM. SO IF YOU'D LIKE, I CAN SEARCH FOR YOU.
WHEN I FIND SOME INFORMATION, I WILL CONTACT YOU.
WHO EXACTLY ARE YOU GUYS?

EH?
IS YOUR FATHER REALLY AN INFLUENTIAL PERSON IN THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND?
.....
MY--BROTHER'S FATHER IS AN INFLUENTIAL PERSON...
WHAT DO YOU ...
AND STRICTLY SPEAKING, WE ARE NOT BROTHERS.

A HUMAN CREATED BY COPYING HIS GENE...
I AM JANIS RENO'S CLONE.
...!
キュッ
FOR WHAT!?

I WAS CREATED TO BE HIS PERFECT SPARE.
WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM, MY ORGAN OR TISSUE WILL BE SWITCHED WITH HIM.
I AM A LIVING SPARE.
A PERFECT SPARE...
IMMEDIATE COMPLIMENT WHEN THE PERSON GETS DISEASE OR INJURY.
I'VE ALSO HEARD THAT THE PERSON SOMETIMES GETS THE WHOLE BODY BY BRAIN TRANSPLANT IF ONE'S BODY WAS CONSIDERABLY HARMED.
ILLEGAL ARTIFICIAL HUMAN THAT IS POPULAR IN WEALTHY SOCIETY NOW...

THAT'S... I'VE ONLY HEARD A GOSSIP ABOUT IT.
THERE'S A CASE AN OLD PERSON GAIN ONE'S OWN YOUNG BODY AGAIN.
...BUT THAT IS SOLECISM AND THE MAINTENANCE COSTS ENORMOUSLY.
THE BODY NORMALLY IS STRICTLY KEPT IN A WOMB TANK...
I'M TAKING CARE OF MY BROTHER IN RENO FAMILY.
I'M SEVEN YEARS YOUNGER THAN HIM BUT MY BODY IS ABOUT THE SAME AGE WITH GROWTH STIMULANT
OTHERWISE THIS IS TOO...
ES ...
ES STANDS FOR...



CREATED FROM THE SAME GENE...

AND BIOLOGICALLY THE SAME EXACT LIFE...

BUT COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WRONG?
YOU BOTH ARE THE SAME HUMANS.
YOU KNOW WHY YOU EXIST FOR AND...
...FON.
I THANK FOR MY BROTHER, JANIS.
I DON'T THINK SO...
BECAUSE I WAS BORN FOR THAT.
YOU'RE LYING!
THAT MEANS YOU ARE LIVING PARTS FOR REPLACING!

AFRAID?
ARE YOU... HAPPY WITH THAT?
AREN'T YOU AFRAID?
I COULD HAVE BEEN IN THE TANK FOREVER AND NEVER OPEN MY EYES.
BUT HE WAS THE ONE WHO TREATED ME AS A HUMAN BEING.
YOU ARE LIVING TO GIVE PARTS OF YOUR BODY TO JANIS.
AND YOU WILL BE HANDICAPPED AFTER THAT.
.....

GOD?
MY BROTHER, JANIS IS...
MY GOD.
I EXIST BECAUSE OF HIM.
SO...
THIS IS NOT A MISFORTUNE.

I ALSO GOT TO MEET YOU LIKE THIS.
BUT..!
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I'VE DONE BUT I THANK HIM AGAIN FOR THAT TODAY.
!
I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT THIS.

IF YOU DON'T MIND, CAN I SEE YOU SOMETIMES?
I THINK I CAME TO LIKE YOU A LOT.
ES...
LET'S KEEP IT SECRET FROM... MY BROTHER...

.....
...!
カチャ
CLICK
SQUEAK...
IT'S UNLOCKED ...

YOU STILL ARE UNDERAGE.
BUT DID YOU ALREADY LEAN HOW TO PARTY IN THE SHADE OF THE ISLAND?
JAKE...

あとがき。

こんにちは。原作者の桑原水菜です。
イルゲネスの国立軍学校は全寮制です。あまり知られていないことですが、実は共学です。
女性士官候補生もウェルカムです。なのに男子の姿しか見あたりません。実は、過去に女性士官もいないではなかったのですが、三流軍学校の評判は余程悪かったのか、ここ数十年は女性の姿も見あたらず…。（イルゲネスの「頭のきれる女」は、軍には見向きもしないということでしょうか。←…哀）最近では「女性士官候補生、絶賛募集中」らしいです。
と、裏設定を披露してみましたところで、第二巻です。
そんなこんなで色恋トラブルに巻き込まれることもなく、首相の息子のねちっこい嫌がらせに鍛えられて（？）すくすくと育ったフォンも、無事進級です。目をきらきらさせて「フォーティンブラス先輩！」と追っかけてくる無邪気な後輩などは、今のところ見あたりませんが（柱の陰にはいるかもしれません）そんな初々しい後輩たちも、実はフォンより一個上という事実……（＝二学年スキップ）。
夏服も披露してます。プラティーン、ひらひらないんだ！　とカチル先生のラフを見て衝撃が走りました。な、夏のプラティーンはまともだ！　と（笑）
思えば軍服は「厳格禁欲カッチリ」だから敬礼が似合うのかもしれません。プラティーンのひらひら制服で敬礼する姿を想像したら、なんだか不思議な雰囲気に。実は敬礼の形も違ったりするのでしょうか。貴族っぽかったりするのでしょうか。そのあたりはカチル先生に悩んでいただくことにして……（笑）。二本指立てて頭のあたりでチャッ……とかだったら、ぴっくりしますが。それはそれで白い歯がキラッと光りそうで、素敵です。
そんなふうで軍学校ネタは尽きませんが、物語のほうは舞台を島裏に広げながら、不穏な方向に向かっていきます。エスとの出会いがフォンに何をもたらすか。
どうぞ次巻もお楽しみに。

桑原水菜